Non-Aligned Movement, while acknowledging the important role that the Movement has played since its inception, expressed their firm conviction that they would continue to make progress towards the attainment of the goals and purpose outlined by the developing countries. Our unity and solidarity is only relevant if the NAM continues to play an action, important and constructive role in international relations, so that a more just and equal world order may be achieved.

14. The Non-Aligned Movement, faced with the goals yet to be reached and the many new challenges that are arising, is called upon to maintain a prominent and leading role in current international relations in defence of the interests and priorities of its Member States. The developing countries will be marginalized if they are unable to define their priorities, share their concerns and efficiently design their own actions so as to ensure that their interests are taken duly into consideration. Thus, it is imperative that the Movement continues to be in the front-line in the struggle to change and transform the present unjust international order.

Havana, 16 September, 2006.

Killing of Palestinian by Israeli armed forces

1678. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Government not accepting the fact that Israel is an out leased State which is illegally occupying and oppressing the Palestinian people in view of killing of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli armed forces;

(b) whether the Government consider to severe military and security cooperation ties with such a regime;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Israel is a sovereign state recognized by the UN and the Palestine Liberation Organization, Government of India condemmed Israel whenever excessive forces is used against Palestinian civilians. Government have condemned all acts of violence and counter violence. Government have consistently supported the Palestinian cause and an

independent sovereign state of Palestine with well defined and secure borders living at peace with its neighbours.

(b) to (d) Relations with countries concerned would enable the Government of India to engage and contribute more effectively to the peace process and to the Palestine issue.

Opposition to US imperialisms

1679. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any struggle against terrorism can be successfully carried on without a strong opposition to US imperialisms unilateralism in the. name of its self proclaimed doctrine of pre-emptive action; and

(b) if not, the role the country played in condemning US's brazen violation of national sovereignty through the use of military force as in Iraq, the continued threats of sanctions against Iran and the support of Israel's military aggression in Asia etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government of India recognizes the need for cooperation to fight terrorism in view of the international linkages of modern terrorist organizations and the transnational dimensions it has assumed in today's world. As part of this effort, India is engaged in counter-terrorism dialogues with a number of countries including the United States. India is committed in its efforts to combat global terrorism and has taken the initiative for a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) at the United Nations.

(b) On Iraq, India's policy is guided by the unanimous resolution passed by the two Houses of Parliament in April 2003. On Iran, Prime Minister has laid out the Government's position in his *suo motu* statement to Parliament on February 17, 2006. On Israel, the Government has consistently held the need for a durable solution to the problem between Israel and Palestine, balancing the twin objectives of creating a viable State for the Palestinian people and recognizing Israel's right to exist. Government of India is of the view that all parties should renounce violence and solve the dispute through peaceful means.